

DODDBHH First Quarter Report FY 2015

Hello. My name is Christopher Hunter, Acting Director of the Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing. I am pleased to give you the 1st quarter of FY 2015 report of DODDBHH activities. The activities were completed by the DODDBHH team including Karlee Rose Gruetzner-Rights Representative, Amanda Niven-Rights Representative, Christy Hill-Secretary and myself from October 1 to December 31, 2014. Also involved were the department's executive team.

Activities accomplished:

1. Gave a presentation on the Deaf Awareness Day at the State Capitol. The event was planned by the Michigan Deaf Association.
2. Held Board of Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) rater two-day training provided by the trainers from Texas. The raters learned about the scoring system, the processes of scoring objectively and rating subjectively, using the critical range to determine a pass or fail and the use of trigger pass if applicable.
3. Held four BEI I rating sessions
4. Held two BEI II rating sessions
5. Answered questions related to general interpreter issues from the concerned audience in the forum at the Madonna University in Livonia.
6. Participated in monthly Michigan Coalition for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing meetings. Helped the coalition to update the information on "Organizations, Agencies and Business" and "Accommodations for Better Communication" sections of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing website. The changes are there now. The web address is michdhh.org.
7. At training sessions in Detroit and Lansing, presented to the entire staff of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights on how to effectively communicate with Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing persons.
8. Held the DODDBHH Advisory Council meeting in Lansing. The next meeting will be on February 27 from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm in Detroit area. Watch for more information on our website. The Governor's office will appoint some new members to fill current vacancies.
9. Met with MCDR Director Matt Wesaw and three hard of hearing representatives to discuss possible ways to restore the Hard of Hearing Specialist position.
10. MDCR posted job announcement for the DODDBHH Director position. The requirements include bachelor's degree in any field with four years of professional experience and three years of experience in management, experience in organizations serving Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing, fluent in ASL and possessing ASLPI level 4 and up or SCPI Advanced Plus and up. The announcement was sent nationwide to various organizations and educational institutions serving Deaf, DeafBlind and HH. The deadline was January 14, 2015.
11. DODDBHH staff spent a great deal of time sorting and discarding files, books and equipment from the old office; packing our files, equipment and books from our library and unpacking our stuff in the new office. We completed our move before the holidays. Our new address is 110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 800, Lansing, MI 48913. Phone numbers are the same: Toll-Free: 877-499-6232 Voice/TTY, VP: 517-507-5223. We have a new fax number: 517-241-3963.

3-Month Activity Statistics

Number of written tests: 13

Number of performance tests: 32

Renewals/first-time listing applications: 112

Testing applications: 36

Rights inquiries:

PA 204: 21

PA 220: 8

ADA: 19

Rules: 32

Complaint procedures: 17

CEU sponsor forms: 11

Ethics inquiries: 16

Customer service (calls, emails, walk-ins, etc.): approximately 110

Referrals: approximately 20

Congratulations to Amanda Niven who applied and became an Investigator in the Enforcement Division of MDCR. We will post the Rights Representative job position in the second quarter.

MDCR has an excellent executive team that makes decisions for the entire department including the Division. Matt Wesaw, MCDR Director has been very supportive of DODDBHH. Lori Vinson, Director of Civil Rights Operations, and my immediate supervisor with whom I meet biweekly also has been very supportive and encouraging. She is very conscious of our BEI system to make sure it stays strong and viable. Dan Levy, Director of Law and Policy has been assisting DODDBHH with legal issues. He did a great job in writing legal documents with input from DODDBHH staff.

We look forward to continuing to serve you in the New Year, 2015.